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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,164	09/08/2003	Juergen Schubert	237228US0	1323
22850	7590	10/16/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				PARVINI, PEGAH
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1793		
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/16/2007		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/656,164	SCHUBERT ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	Pegah Parvini	1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not descriptive and cannot summarize the invention. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CA 2255456 (cited from Canadian Patent Office) to Siray et al.
5. Regarding claims 1, 13, and 27-28, Siray et al. disclose a precipitated silica having BET surface area of 351 to 600 m²/g, DBP index value of 300 to 360, density of 7 to 140 g/l, a carbon content of 1 to 8 percent (spec. page 4, lines 12-20). Furthermore, d₅₀ values disclosed in Table 3 (spec. page 12) are within 5 to 15 µm. It would have been obvious to have overlapping ranges of BET, DBP, density and carbon content values for the precipitated silica with the d₅₀ values of Table 3 motivated by the fact they are disclosed in same reference for precipitated silica.
6. Regarding claim 2, Siray et al. disclose values for d₉₀, d₁₀, d₅₀ in Table 3 (spec. page 12) which if used in size distribution calculations based on [d₉₀ – d₁₀]/d₅₀ would results in values in the range of 0.90-1.50 for the samples in the top table and the samples in the bottom table except for "4b, fine" (spec. page 12).
7. Regarding claims 3-4, Siray et al. disclose the gloss angle values for 60° and 85° for the samples in Table 3 (spec. page 12), which fall within the range of 15-25 and 50-70 respectively.

8. Regarding claim 14, Siray et al. disclose the precipitated silica with wax having d_{90} value of 12.28, d_{50} value of 8.21, and d_{10} value of 4.66 based on Table 12 (spec. page 23); this will result in a size distribution of 0.928 based on $[d_{90} - d_{10}]/d_{50}$.

9. Regarding claims 15-16, Siray et al. disclose the gloss angle values for the "8b" sample for 60° and 85° as 17.3 and 42.9 or 34.4 and 67.4 respectively (spec. Table 13, page 24) wherein the silica is used in a lacquer.

10. Regarding claims 25 and 26, Siray et al. disclose precipitated silica with wax emulsion having d_{50} values of, for example, 6.26 to 9.28 (spec. Table 3).

11. Regarding claims 6-12 and 17-24, Siray et al. disclose precipitated silica with the properties recited in claims 1-4 and 13-16 which may be used as a matting agent in lacquer system and paints (Abstract, page 6). In addition, said precipitated silica provide a very smooth surface to the final paint coating and high transparency while minimizing deleterious effects upon the paint rheology (spec. page 5, lines 13-17).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 5,034,207 to Kerner et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pegah Parvini whose telephone number is 571-272-2639. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PP


J.A. LORENZO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER